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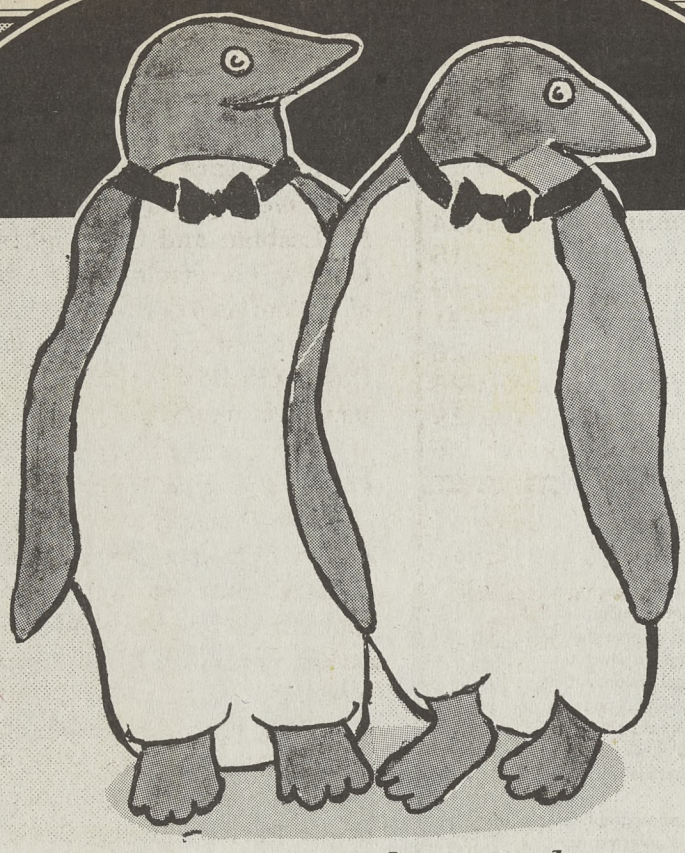

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PATLAR

Voice of Lesbian / Gay America

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PATLAR is published during the first week of each month. The official address is PO Box 1413, West Sacramento, California 95691.

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Publisher	Larry Lanham	
Editor	Martin D. Casey	
Editorial Graphic Design	Michael Maslowski, Mmedia	
Advertising Graphic Design	Y.J.M. Graphics	
Typesetting	Michael Maslowski	
Contributors		
Alaska	Lisa Slayton	
California	Ernie Brown	
	Drew Herzig	
	Lee Horner	
	Roger C. Ludwig	
	Harvest McCampbell	
	Laura Post	
	Quetzal	
	Mary Smith	
	Julie Spotts	
Connecticut	Nancy Lyn Define	
District of Columbia	Craig R. Dean	
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New Jersey	Ralph Walker	
Ohio	Blue Moor	
	Kyle	
Tennessee	Linda Welch	
Washington	Mel Dahl	
	Ira Gruber	
	Tina Jenneray	
Photographers	D.B.	
	Martin Casey	
Advertising	Sacramento	(916) 452-0769
		(800) 223-0769
	National	Michael Gravois
		(201) 754-4348
Cover Photographs	"Santa" by Brian Ashby	
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LETTERS

Dear Friend:

In the early dawn hours of October 9,1992, an event will occur which is certain to stun our nation and its leaders.

Five years after the first 1,920 panels of the Quilt were displayed at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed – in its entirety– at the steps of our nation's capitol.

But instead of 26,000 Americans to remember, there will be over 200,000. And instead of 1,920 panels, there will be close to 20,000.

Please write down the dates October 9 - 11, and plan to join us in Washington, D.C. next year.

Also, I would like to ask for your financial support to help us begin to underwrite the costs of this display. Your tax-deductible gift will help ensure that our efforts reach millions of Americans and do not go unnoticed by the media or our government leaders.

There has never been a more important time for us to take action in our efforts to promote a generous and compassionate response to the AIDS epidemic. Please join us in these efforts.

Thank you,
David Lemos
The NAMES Project, "Return to DC"
2362 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Dear friend:

City College of San Francisco is proud to have been selected as host of the National Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Studies Conference in 1993. This is the first time the conference will be held away from the East Coast and provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase lesbian and gay studies in the San Francisco area.

The theme of the 1993 conference will be the multicultural perspective on gay and lesbian issues, including issues in Third World countries. Attendance is expected to reach 3,500 people, from all over the country.

If you have any questions, please call Jonathan Katz, acting co-chair and member of the Department of Gay and Lesbian Studies at City College, at 239-3876 (college).

You may also call Donna Mooney, City College public relations officer and acting publicity chair for the conference, 239-3680 (college) or 531-5930 (home).

Sincerely,
Jonathan Katz

Martin D. Casey

Magic

The announcement that basketball legend "Magic" Johnson has contracted HIV has stirred up many deep and sometimes conflicting emotions. Admiration for his courage in coming forward to speak out about the virus, rather than cloaking himself in the secretive haze that so many with "an image" to protect have done. Sadness that yet another person has seen their lives shift focus in one startling moment due to this virus.

But I am also furious that it took this announcement to focus new attention on this devastating epidemic. I am shocked at those who sanctimoniously "grieve" for Magic while ignoring thousands just like him for a decade! I am sickened by the Wall Street Journal which smugly noted that it was a test required by a life insurer that revealed Johnson's status, practically gloating over how much money such tests saved the industry. I wanted to shout back at those who began treating him like a dead man, eulogizing already, that he may have a decade or more before he even develops AIDS!

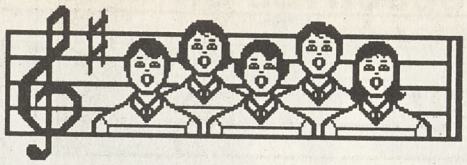
I am disgusted that we have largely tip-toed around HOW Magic contracted HIV, since we certainly don't want to taint a legend with rumors of promiscuity or homosexuality or IV drugs and steroids use. But I am just as disgusted that we even WANT to know HOW he contracted it! Why should that make a difference? Yet even as I ask, I know that it does, because we all want some rationale for consigning the disease to the province of "the other" — some way to deny that it could ever affect "us."

It is easy to contrast Magic with Rock Hudson, whose similar announcement in 1985 had equally deep effects on the politics and social dynamics of the time. The wild hysteria that "even ROCK could get it" versus the sad resignation that "even Magic can get it". The numbing fear of exposure which Rock endured versus the calm dignity of Magic, supported by fans, friends, and loved ones. Rock's desperate flights to Paris for some fleeting hope of a cure versus the new drugs and treatments which are available to Magic. The frustration that both men have had access to top-flight medical care while thousands still have no insurance whatsoever. Magic's announcement demonstrates both how far we have come as a society in dealing with HIV, and how much further we desperately need to go.

Thus, it is with a great deal of sadness that I acknowledge that this one man, Magic Johnson, may succeed in focusing national attention on the epidemic better than anything that we in the Gay and Lesbian community have done in the last ten years simply by virtue of the fact that he is enormously famous, an inspiration to youths and people of color, and so unlike the "typical" person with HIV that he can't be dismissed. I am especially sad because it shows how marginalized we still are in America.

It is also with a great deal of hope that I acknowledge that this one man, Magic Johnson, may succeed in focusing national attention on the epidemic, simply by virtue of the fact that his stature will force a debate on AIDS policy during the upcoming Presidential election campaigns (Bush is reportedly considering appointing Magic to the National Commission on AIDS). Many persons may give careful consideration to their own sexual practices, drug use, and biases. Magic's honesty and dignity reflect so brightly on the strength of all persons with HIV that I am hopeful that he will be able, finally, to build a solid national consensus for progress on the foundations WE have laid for him.

Magic has indicated that he intends to be a "spokesman" for people with HIV - in essence, he, like Ryan White, will assume the role of "Poster Child". Our community can offer him a profound reservoir of support, information, and understanding, thereby helping to ensure his success in educating thousands of young people, people of color, and the nation at large. Yes, there is reason for our community to be bitter that such a man has galvanized public attention more than we have these past few years, but that anger should not be directed at him! Rather, marshall it for the bigoted, ignorant forces in society which have worked to shunt us aside, and who must now deal with the reason, dignity, and power of Magic.



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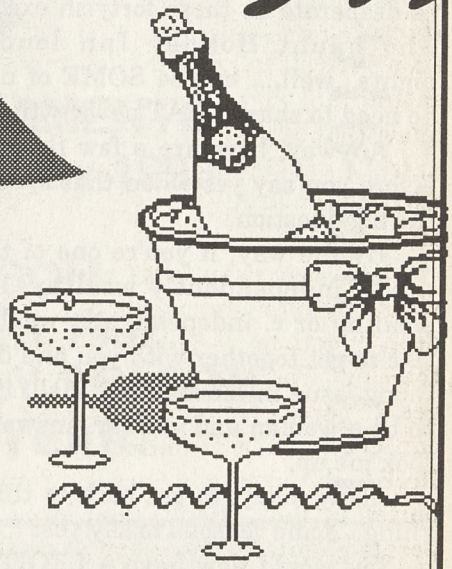

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Two Perspectives on Love and Marriage

Nancy Lyn Define

To Be or Not To Be...

Much has been said lately about the concept of gay marriages. There has been a mass of material written about the pros and cons of same sex nuptials. Ultimately, however, the bottom line on the whole issue centers on some very basic and concrete questions. Oh, sure, I know, there are any number of gay persons out there who think that LOVE is the answer to everything. And there are others who discount any concept that doesn't t have the approval of mainstream society. But like it or not, gay marriage is very much a part of the current scene and same sex weddings will probably be as much a symbol of the nineties as platform shoes and disco dancing were to the seventies. Therefore, we should probably examine the whole idea of 'gay marriage' as carefully as the aficionados of Donna Summer examined her wardrobe.

With that in mind, here are a few things to consider when entertaining the idea of 'tying the knot' with someone...preferably someone you have known for more than twelve hours (after all, we are NOT as desperate as those fortyish executive secretaries who haunt Holiday Inn lounges on Friday nights...well,... maybe SOME of us are but there's no need to share THAT news with the world).

Anyway, here are a few things to ask yourself before you say yes when that special someone pops the big question.

By the way, if you're one of those women who are a. independently wealthy, b. independently wealthy or c. independently wealthy, I'd REALLY like to get together with you and discuss this matrimony issue in more detail. Hell, if you even WANT to be a woman and you can answer yes to a. b. or c., look me up.

Okay, okay, to get back to this whole marriage thing...some reasons to say yes:

- You would now have a LEGITIMATE reason to dislike your lover's family.

Continued Next Page

Craig R. Dean

Gay Marriage: A Civil Right

As one Washington, D.C. observer put it, "people dropped their teeth"[1] when in November, 1990, my lover, Patrick Gill and I applied for a marriage license, and then filed a lawsuit when the District of Columbia denied it because we are gay. By refusing to give us the same legal recognition that is given to heterosexual couples, the District Government has devalued and degraded our relationship as well as that of every other gay and lesbian couple.

At one time, interracial couples were not allowed to marry. Gays and lesbians are still denied this most basic civil right in the U.S. and around the world. Can you imagine the outcry if any other minority group were denied the right to legally marry today?

Marriage is more than a piece of paper. Marriage is an important civil right because it gives societal recognition and legal protection to a relationship, and confers numerous benefits to spouses. In the District of Columbia alone, there are over one hundred automatic marriage-based rights.

In every state in the nation, married couples have the right to be on each others' health, disability, life insurance and pension plans. Married couples receive special tax preferences for exemptions, deductions and refunds. Married couples may jointly own real and personal property, an arrangement which protects their marital estate from each others' creditors. Spouses may automatically inherit property and have rights of survivorship that avoid inheritance tax. Though unmarried couples, both gay and straight, with the help of lawyers may duplicate some of these rights, these rights are by no means guaranteed.

For married couples, the spouse is legally the next of kin in case of death, medical emergency or mental incapacity. In stark contrast, for same-sex couples the family is considered the next of kin, not

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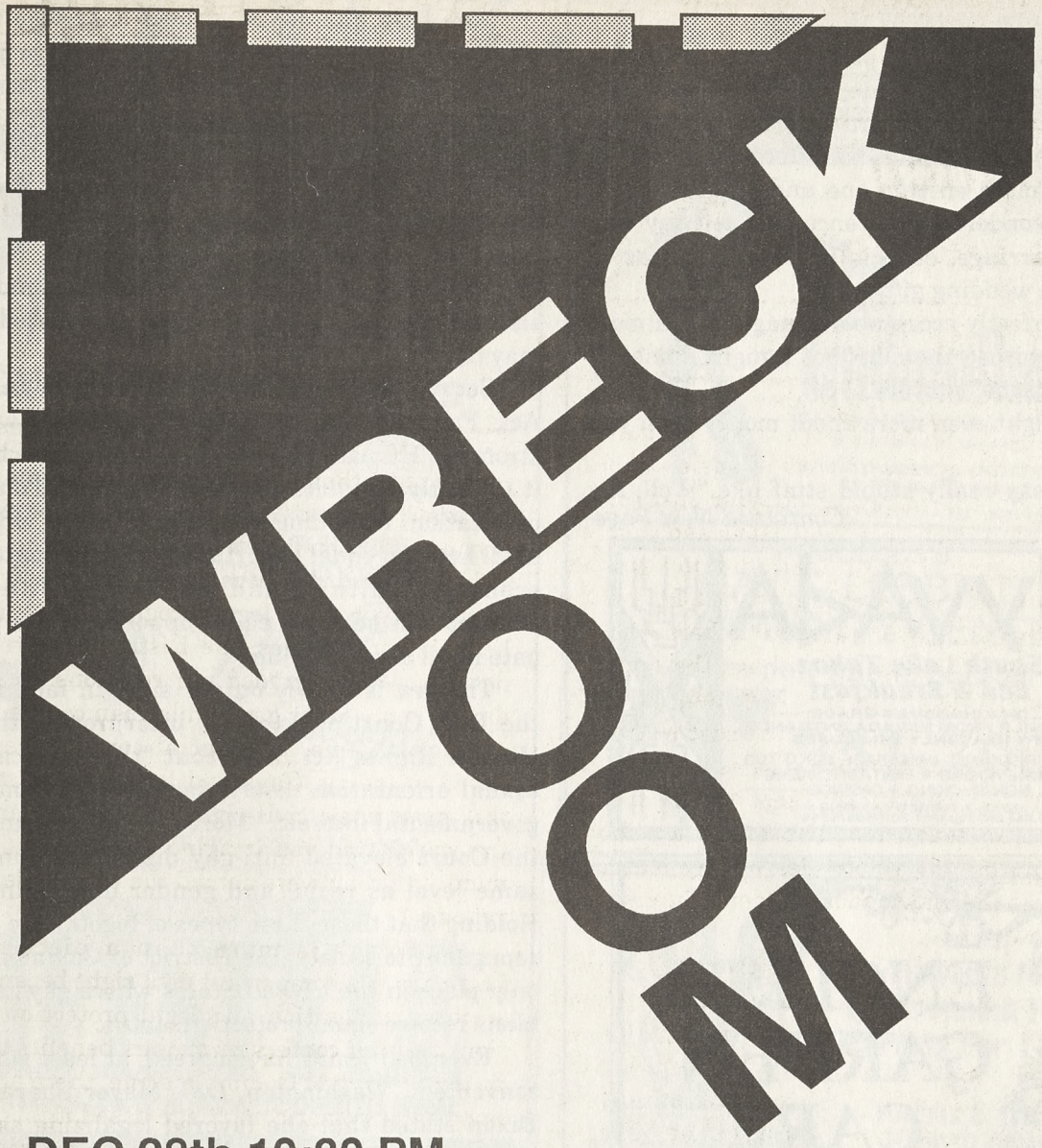

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- You get to do things like call the local bar to see if your spouse is there (if you're the drunk in the bar you get to have the bartender lie for you.)
- You get to pick out china patterns from Williams-Sonoma or matching cue sticks and softball gloves from your local sporting goods store (I REALLY don't think I have to differentiate the female from male on this one and yes, Virginia, there is a wonderful difference between gay and non-gay marriage, especially when it comes to appropriate wedding gifts.)
- It is now perfectly acceptable to nag... and almost mandatory to use the old, "not tonight, honey, I have a headache" routine.
- You get to fight even more about money than you do now.
- You get to say really stupid stuff like "Well, my

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DEAN Continued

the partner. In light of the AIDS crisis, the denial of marriage rights can be even more ominous.

Therefore, the denial of legal marriage to gays and lesbians is an incredible act of multiple discrimination. Patrick and I felt that we had no honorable alternative but to stand up and fight for our love right. We are now in a protracted and costly court battle with the District of Columbia, and are alleging a two-fold discrimination. First, the District violated its' gender-neutral marriage law. Nowhere does its' legal code state that a marriage must consist of a man and a woman or that a married couple may not be of the same-sex.

Second, the District violated its' Human Rights Act. For gays and lesbians, this 1977 law is the strongest Human Rights Act in the nation because it explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. According to the Act, "every individual shall have an equal opportunity to participate in the economic, cultural and intellectual life of the District and have an equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of life.[2]

The law is clearly on our side. In fact, in 1987 the D.C. Court of Appeals, interpreting the D.C. Human Rights Act, held that "the eradication of sexual orientation discrimination is a compelling governmental interest." Moreover, in the same case, the Court elevated anti-gay discrimination to the same level as racial and gender discrimination.[3] Holding that these three types of bigotry are equally repugnant to society, the District of Columbia is the only place in the United States where gays and lesbians receive equal protection status.

Even politicians have agreed, at least when it is convenient. Washington, D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon stated that she favored legalizing same-sex marriage and that "the world is a changing place and we should accept it."[4] That was during her campaign. It is unfortunate that since her election the Mayor has been reluctant to make similar statements of support for equal marriage rights. It is even more unfortunate that, rather than fairly apply the law, Mayor Dixon is instead wasting taxpayer money to fight us in court.

Some argue that gay marriage is too radical for society. We disagree. Actually, gay marriage is pro-family. According to a 1988 study by the American Bar Association, eight to ten million children are currently being raised in three million gay and lesbian households.[5] Therefore, approximately six percent of the U.S. population is made up of gay and lesbian families with children. Why should these families be denied the advantages and protections granted to other families? Does anyone seriously

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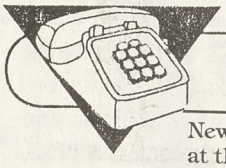

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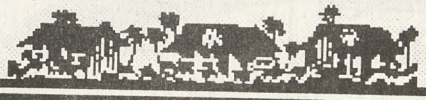

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husband says..." or "my wife thinks..." which makes you immediately more popular with your non-gay married friends who say really stupid stuff.

- You get to say "it's your MOTHER" everytime that old hag calls your apartment.
- You get to sign your name to your lover's checks and credit cards, etc...(oh, I know you don't have to be married to do that but marriage makes it more acceptable, somehow).
- You get to go through every private area of your lover's life including but not limited to private correspondance, wallets, diaries, pockets, phone calls, etc..,with a totally clear conscience (actually, this is almost a DUTY when you're married).
- You get to ignore your lover completely (you no longer even have to pretend you're listening to those dumb old stories you've heard a million times before).
- You get to give each other little meaningful, lovelorn, glances everytime a comedienne tells a husband or wife joke.
- You get to ogle sweet young things in department stores and pretend they'd give you a second glance if it weren't for that HUGE wedding band on your finger.
- You get to say to every person you ever gave the eye to who didn't give it back, "So, are you STILL single?"
- You get to watch Saturday Night Live at the same time you're having sex.

and finally,

- You get to threaten divorce all the time (of course, a gay marriage is no better than YOUR attorney who drew up the financial agreement).

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think that society is served by policies which disadvantage this many citizens?

Furthermore, gay marriage is socially conservative because it would strengthen society. Few would deny that marriage is an important thread that weaves the fabric of society together. As it is estimated that approximately ten percent of a given population is gay or lesbian, denial of gay marriage rights weakens the fabric of society. Put another way, if one removed ten percent of the threads in one's suit coat, how strong would that suit coat be? Similarly, when the stability of relationships in an entire minority group is undermined, all of society gets hurt — witness the AIDS crises.

On the other hand, allowing gay marriage would help bring society together by increasing tolerance and assimilation. It is paradoxical that mainstream America stereotypes gays and lesbians as unable to maintain long-term relationships, while at the same time denying them the very institutions to stabilize such relationships.

Twenty-five years ago, one-third of the United States did not allow interracial marriage. It took a 1967 Supreme Court decision in Loving v. Virginia, a case similar to ours, to strike down these discriminatory prohibitions and redefine family and marriage.[6] Then, as now, those who argued against granting civil rights spoke of morality, social tensions and protection of traditional family values. But now, as then, the real issue is justice versus oppression.

A non-profit corporation, The Equal Marriage Rights Fund, is funding Dean and Gill's legal battle. If you would like to support equality of choice for same-sex couples, or wish more information, please write to: Equal Marriage Rights Fund, P.O. Box 18707, Washington, D.C. 20036

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Craig R. Dean is a twenty eight year old attorney practicing in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 1989. Mr. Dean is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Marriage Rights Fund. He and his lover of five years, Patrick Gill, are suing the District of Columbia for the right to marry.

[1] Henry Mitchell, "Gays and the State of Matrimony," The Washington Post, January 11, 1991, p. D2.
[2] District of Columbia Code Section 1-2511.
[3] Gay Rights Coalition v. Georgetown, 536 A.2d 1 (D.C. 1987).
[4] The Washington Times, September 14, 1990, p. A6.
[5] Developments in the Law: Sexual Orientation and the Law, 102 Harvard Law Review 1508, 1629 (1989).
[6] Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1 (1967).

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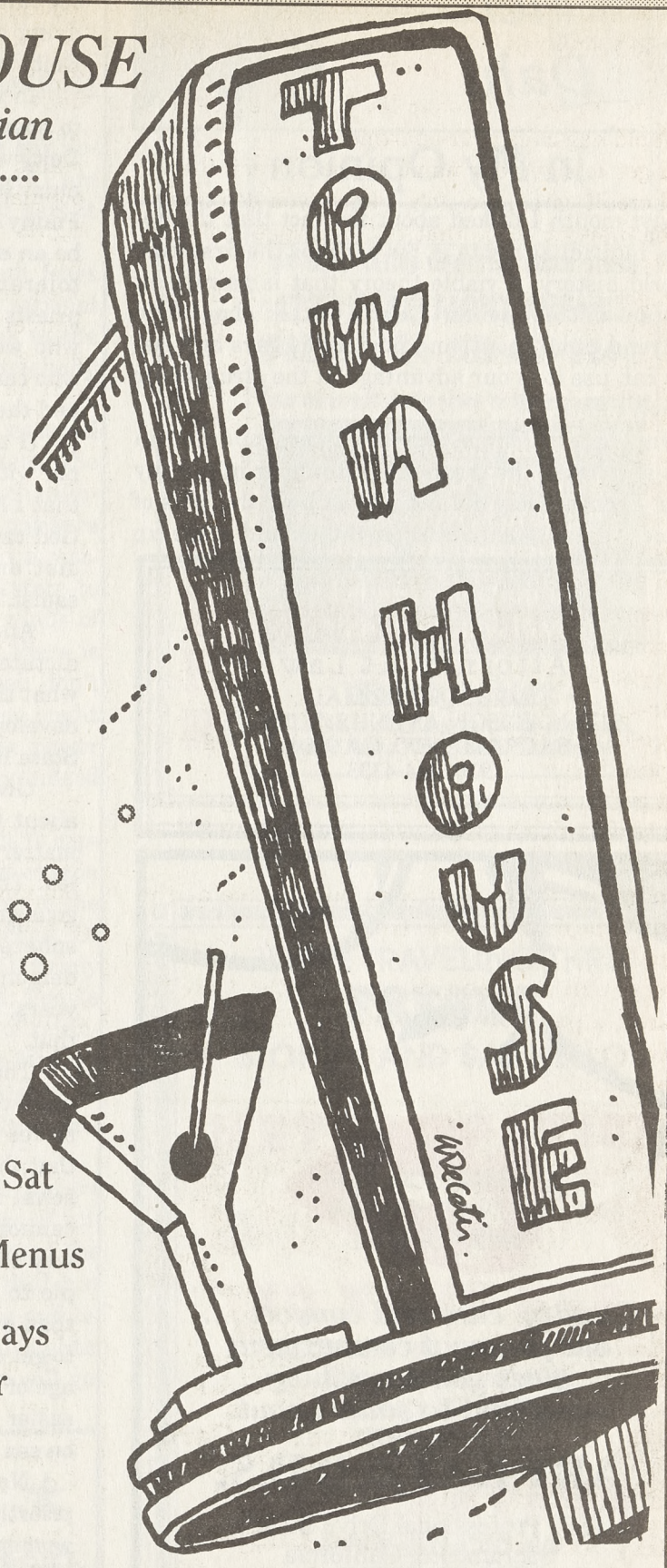

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Mel Dahl

In My Opinion

Last month I talked about the fact that the notion of individual rights is, for perhaps the first time in world history, a viable theory that is gaining in acceptance. This month, I want to talk about how that trend came about, and how we as gays and lesbians can use it to our advantage in the struggle for our civil rights.

Once upon a time, our ancestors huddled in caves and heard the crash of the thunder in the sky above. Because they did not know about the laws of science, the only explanation they could come up with was that a Deity was behind it. Not knowing the laws of pathology, when one of their number lay dying of plague they naturally assumed the same Deity was behind that too.

In time, a priestly class emerged which claimed to speak for the Deity. It told the people what the Deity wished them to do to appease it, and how they must live their lives so as not to incur its wrath. Funny thing is, most often the Deity turned out to be an egocentric tyrant with manners we would not tolerate in a four year-old, but that's what the priests said so that's what the people did. After all, who would be willing to risk the wrath of a Deity who can ruin one's life, the lives of one's community, and then torture one for all eternity to boot?

(I am not an atheist. However, I once had dinner with a famous atheist who said something to me that I have never forgotten: "I who do not believe in God cannot help but wonder why those who do insist on making him out to be an insufferable sadist.")

And so, for many centuries, the priestly class dictated to the people how they were to live and what they were to think. An incestuous relationship developed between throne and altar, and Official State Religion was born.

Given the capacity of the human mind to learn about the world around it, however, it was only a matter of time until we made some major discoveries. Thunderstorms are not caused by Olympian gods going to war, but by disturbances in the atmosphere. Disease is caused by viruses rather than demons. Earth is significantly older than 10,000 years, and the creation story turned out to be just that.

The problem was that by the time these things were discovered, the priests had ingrained themselves and their institutions into society so deeply that there was no dislodging them. In addition, personal morality issues such as sex and chemicals cannot be "proven" in the laboratory in the same way that geology can. Thus, it is far easier for people to accept dogma from on high on those issues than on physical science issues. Finally, people tend to get more emotional over sex than they do over the age of the earth or the cause of thunderstorms. It is easier for emotions to get in the way of a discussion on sex than on astronomy.

Now, to me it is not at all baffling that the priestly class persists in teaching the inferiority of women and the wrath of God on gay people since it is those teachings which put them in power in the first place. What is baffling is that anybody is still listening. If the president of General Motors said the ignorant things about women that the pope says

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about women, he would be fired and the company would consider it a major embarrassment. Yet, when the pope says what he says about women, people sit up and listen as if he were saying something worth hearing.

So what does any of this have to do with gay liberation? I can hear all my readers asking if I am eventually going to get to a point. Yes, and here it is:

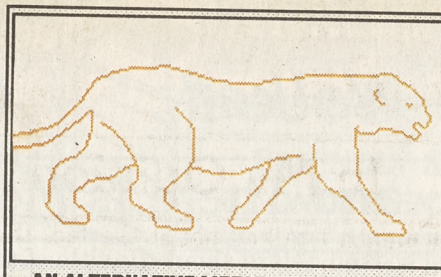
Homophobia has its roots in the ancient fears and superstitions of long ago. There is no rational reason to hate gay people; it is a throwback to the ignorance of an era when every time somebody sneezed, the devil was behind it.

The intense level of homophobia has lessened somewhat in part because the mystical loonies who used to run things usually don't have as much influence as they used to. There is less public patience with the notion that everybody's business is a matter of state concern because God told the state to keep tabs on people. And this is why the winds of freedom are beginning to sweep the globe: there is no rational reason to oppress people if you don't have a Deity whispering in your ear that you ought to. As the mystical loonies continue to lose power worldwide, a gentler and kinder world may indeed emerge.

What the gay liberation movement needs to capitalize on is this rather simple premise that reason and logic are on our side, and our real enemy is the superstition that is still so deeply entrenched. Of course, we need to understand that it is still firmly entrenched, and that barbarism dies hard. People don't seem to understand the contradiction of rejecting the priesthood's views with respect to biology while clinging tightly to them in sexual morality issues. Never underestimate the power of a dead enemy.

Our movement has benefitted because we are fortunate to live in an age where 500 years of science has struck at some of the basic tenets of the mystics. It is this, more than anything, that has generated the big trend away from tyranny and toward individual autonomy and personal rights. Plugging our goals and strategies into that will get us far.

TUFF & TENDER



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Ralph Walker

...and There Is More!

I've spoken before about the title of this column, and about how, as one makes new discoveries and expands into new dimensions of awareness and wonder...there is always, unaccountably, a "More!"

And, today, writing just as there has been one more mass shooting spree, I must admit that beyond whatever horrors our world has seen recently, it seems that again, but this time, tragically, yes, there is more.

When can the killing stop? Where will it ever end? How much more must we endure? What new horrors await us? It seems a most urgent question.

Unfortunately, despite various attempts by philosophers and theologians throughout the history of the West, we have all been schooled in the notion of a world in which there are both good and evil. We all believe this — in varying degrees of sophistication. I, however much I may protest, have also been conditioned in this kind of dualistic point of view. And, even the elegant attempt by St. Augustine to escape from this was termed the Manichean Heresy, by suggesting that only good exists, and what we perceive as evil is simply a "turning away from the good."

As many of you know, I've long been a student of A Course in Miracles, and the point of view there, as in many eastern religions, is that all of what we know as "real" is simply illusion. All that is, is God. in truth, and what we are playing in, playing at, is all "illusion" created by the ego, In truth, we are all safe "in the ever-lovin' arms" — for we have never left the mind of God; we only "dreamed" that we did.

Well, if this be so, then surely the determination of the "more" that we can anticipate in our life-experience is entirely up to us. We may, like the young man who shot many of his former employers at the post office, assume that for every bad or evil thing we have experienced, there is simply going to be more evil. We could even resort to his desperate means for dealing with it. Frankly, I hope that you, like me, find that a less-than-attractive option for your "dream."

For, at the same time, we may choose (and it is quite simply a matter of choice!) to look for the good, notice the little kindnesses, listen for the laughter of children, welcome and return the smiles of strangers, note and commend the kind and goodly things that people do. In other words, we may simply choose love, choose life, choose joy...and remain alert for these in life. Yes, they are there! **Begin to look for them!**

And, what better time than the Christmas season for initiating this new kind of looking! And, as you discover joy, good cheer, warmth and decency, faithful friends, you can be sure that there will be "more" of that! Like breeds like. Honey catches more flies than vinegar. A gentle answer turneth away wrath. And all of those others which you've heard so many times that you may have thought they were just cliches. For. yes, they can become cliches, if you fail to give them a chance to demonstrate their profound power.

Remember the Beatles, "Give Peace a Chance?" That was a profoundly important message—or, better, a meaningful instruction for life.

This is the Season to be Jolly!

Or, the season for sadness, loneliness and pain.

Again, as I've said here many times: You are the choice-maker!

As you are willing to give peace a chance, simply be open to the love that is there — in everyone ...even in Jeffrey Dahmer or the young man who did

Continued Next Page

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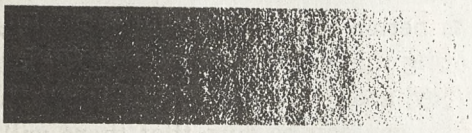

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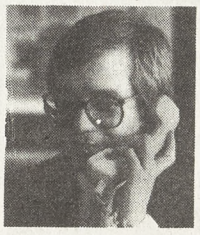

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Walker Continued

the most recent shooting. Even for these, the love that was there had been blocked, denied, shunted aside — and their acts were acts of desperation, simply because they had finally come to the conclusion that love was impossible in this world.

Love is possible—and for you it begins right here, where you are at this moment, as you read this. Take a quiet look, deep into yourself, and permit yourself to have at least a glimpse at the loving you that you truly are, inside. Then, begin, just a little, to notice the signs of love in others. Begin there, my friend, and move outward from there.

Oh, so you did find a little love, both inside and outside! Excellent! You have begun...and once begun, there is never any limit to how far you can go with that, for, most assuredly, there is no limit to love. For, however much you find, create, discover, release, share...you can be sure that, beyond that, it remains true:

...and there is MORE!

This is my Holiday Gift to you! May it transform your life, as it has transformed thousands of others!

AND, know that I love you!

[Ralph is founder of The Loving Brotherhood. He welcomes your opinions, comments, criticisms at PO Box 556P, Sussex, NJ 07461 3]

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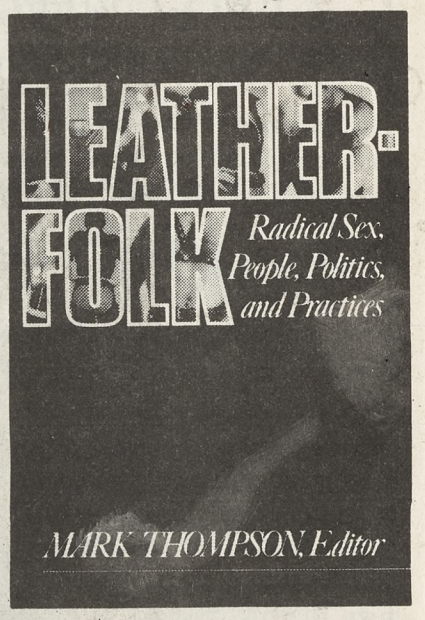
Leather Folk

A Challenging Look at a Diverse World

Editor's Note: In November, Alyson Publications released "Leatherfolk", an anthology which examines the wide diversity of the Leather lifestyle. This month, PATLAR offers its readers exclusive excerpts from this important work, to be followed next month by our review and further excerpts. "Leatherfolk" is available at community bookstores at $19.95.

Four years ago Mark Thompson gave voice to a new movement with his widely acclaimed anthology Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning. In his new book Leatherfolk, Thompson again breaks ground, with the first non-fiction, co-gender work to focus on this large and often controversial subculture. The diverse contributors look at the history of the leather and S/M movement. how radical sex practice relates to their spirituality, and what S/M means to them personally. Several chapters from the book, including Thompson's introduction, are briefly excerpted here.



Leatherfolk and radical sex practices

Even though the leather phenomenon is growing ever more popular, its psychology has been all but ignored. Few observers have delved beyond the broad pathological meanings, the hoary cliches, that have been projected onto variant sexuality. In truth, most people don't want to see the inner reality of radical sexual practice. Outsiders are made uncomfortable by the notion of S /M because it carries with it all that has been kept repressed and shadowy inside; it is an unacknowledged waste dump for the psyche's ills and discontents. Saying this does not

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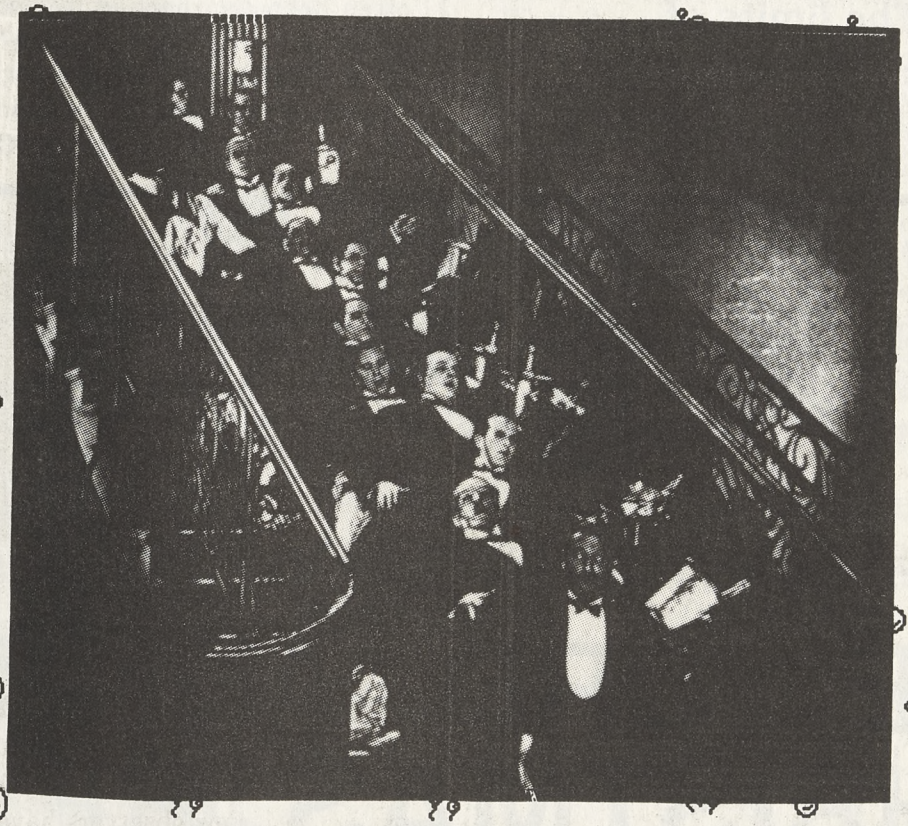

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Leather Folk Continued

make radical sexuality bad; only the hypocrisy and lack of consciousness about it is. As many leatherfolk well understand, rather than keeping parts of the psyche distant and detached, S/M can serve deep spiritual needs for wholeness and completion. In the broadest sense, radical sex practice is about the exploration of eros. Being playful with sexuality — entertaining our fantasies, enriching our lives with pleasure — is an essential freedom. The look, scent, and feel of black leather sexualizes everything it comes in contact with. Liberating erotic potential from the dour puritanical ethics that still rule our culture, and our libidos, is prerequisite to establishing a more sane and forgiving society. S/M practice, composed of highly potent sexual games, increases awareness about ourselves and others. It is not unusual to find leatherfolk who are members of the clergy or the New Age movement, or who have explored psychoanalysis or various recovery programs. In short, most of us are in some way seriously committed to personal and social change.

—Mark Thompson

The limits of the S/M relationship

The negotiating process that takes place before an exchange of power in an S/M scene is supposed to ensure consent and equal gratification for both partners. If this is true, why are so many more sadomasochists wearing their keys on the right? This would certainly seem to imply that one role is potentially more rewarding than the other. If some of us aren't getting what we want (which seems guaranteed in a subculture in which bottoms outnumber tops), maybe we need to make some changes.

How do tops and bottoms view each other? Is S/M really about sensuality and mutuality? Are we being honest about what we want from each other? Are we being realistic or fair?

One of the things that tops do to bond with each other is stand around and bitch about bottoms. A lot of this is self-serving and basically affectionate, so it can't be taken too seriously. But I've repeatedly heard some complaints that probably should not be discounted.

I have yet to meet a top who didn't feel that they were frequently depersonalized and objectified by the people who cruise them. This is an odd sensation. You know that somebody wants you bad, but you're not sure they know who the hell you are. I've often been approached by bottoms who want a scene, but they have no idea what my scene is. When I try to tell them (gently, at first) that I am basically a sadist and have no interest in body wor-

Continued Next Page

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Leather Folk Continued

ship, domination, French maids, or bondage unless these activities can be combined with physical pain, they often choose not to believe me. I'm not seen as being responsible because I communicate my preferences; I'm seen as being withholding.

—Pat Califia

God's sense of humor

When a gay male begins to think about leather, he finds that if he is going to be a part of the leather community, he must experience a second coming out. In this coming out, the enemy is ignorance and homophobia from some elements of the gay and lesbian community. Because "leather is unique to each individual in the leather community, there is no single definition of what leather is. To the participant, leather is, period; to be defined as the experience and life-style unfolds.

I am a Christian minister, who believes God has a sense of humor. Why else would the Christian scriptures tell us that John the Baptist, the person who proclaimed the coming of the One we believe is the Christ, the Promised One, wore leather?

—The Rev. Troy Perry

[Reprinted with permission of the publisher from Leatherfolk: Radical Sex, People, Politics and Practice. Mark Thompson, editor.]

Leonard Earl Johnson

Yours Truly in a Swamp

As all things must, the contest to name in one sentence what Wheee! the Citizens of the U.S.A. won in the Persian Gulf War has come to an end. Daily trips to the post office will no longer be filled with expectation. And no longer will my mail box runnith over. For this, the Vieux Carre' Post Office is thankful. I, however, already miss your funny, angry, laughable, and — sometimes — incomprehensible comments.

There were 1,318 entries for our panel of one (me) to consider. They came from as far away as The Soviet Union and as near as the French Quarter. The entry mailed from the U.S.S.R. came from a New Yorker on holiday in fun-loving Leningrad. His entry, "An end to the Vietnam War."

When this contest began, I expected some funny responses and some hateful ones. One angry reader wrote from Los Angeles, "You audacious scribbler, suggesting anything contestable existed about God,

Continued Next Page

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JOHNSON Continued

glory, flag and the Persian Gulf War...." Obviously a loser addicted to oil flavored air. To be truthful, I got 127 hate letters.

In the first weeks, entries came mostly from Texas and Florida and seemed to be saying "Ya, I know, we didn't win much but, heck, we won!" Then Louisiana's talent for poetic expression overcame the cultural difficulty of letter writing, bringing the most sobering entry of all, from a lady in the New Orleans suburb of Metairie, who penned, "Magnolias bloom white/Roses bloom red/Go far away/ ' fore you bloom dead. " Not a legal entry — more than one line, Cher. (What can you expect from a 'burb that chooses David Duke to represent it.) Then the Eastern Seaboard got in the act, and California, and most of the states in-between. The suggestions came hot and heavy. They didn't so much question my deviation from the party line as they were oh, so, so serious. (It must have escaped your attention but all the time I was looking for ha-ha-ha-funny comments.) So, I created a new category: "Mad as Hell ! " And the winner is Furbirds Watch Dogs (that is how they signed the letter) of Hartford, Connecticut . They wrote: "What we won in the Persian Gulf War: From Here the Flag Flies." The entry was accompanied by three United States flags pasted upside-down on the page. And a postscript: "We say, 'take it, you can have it. Go ahead it's yours, this fraudulent, bloody, dirty old rag.'" Obviously children of the Sixties.

One I seriously considered anointing Winner came from New Orleans, "The right to call Mr. Bush Ass-Kicker of the Dunes. " Pretty good, right? Charity keeps out of print the name of this contestant who sadly, sadly, sadly plagiarized "Ass-Kicker of the Dunes" from Times-Picayune staff writer James Gill. I briefly considered making James Gill the winner but since he had not himself entered, the unanimous decision of our "panel" was to hang the laurel elsewhere.

Some I did not understand: From New York City, "Revenge. " Orlando, Florida, "Fun in the sun." Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, "Fun in the water." A pattern seemed to be developing. Then, St. Petersburg, Florida., "The right to stay home at night and have fun." Two men in Atlanta sent this, "A new chapter of Gone With The Wind." Albuquerque, "Water." Phoenix, "Water." and San Francisco: "Water." (Do you three know each other?)

Some I did understand: Chicago, "Clout!" Dallas, "Nothing!" El Paso, "Everything!" St. Louis, "A chance to fight again." And Washington, D.C., "Four more years!"

WINNERS:

Second runner up: Byron Lynn Dromgoole Landon and William Dee Carpenter of Houston: "Proof Pudding!!!"

First runner up: Jerome Murphy, M.D., Sacramento, California: "I think the Persian Gulf is vital to our American interests, emphasizing the importance of the war with Iraq because we really need their rugs and (the) carpeting they make, if I'm not mistaken."

And the winner is: Ann Rek, Houston: "Kurds, like that found in cottage cheese."

All entrants who's names are listed above will receive a copy of the poster "Bourbon Street, #13." Congratulations! Thank you all for entering. It was a task going through so much mail but, hey, with the war over — or in hiatus — there hasn't been much on TV anyway.

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Northern Californians Organize for 1993 March on Washington

Activists in Northern California will hold a Town Meeting on Sunday, December 8 to organize the region's participation in a 1993 March on Washington for lesbian, gay and bisexual civil rights.

The March, to be held in Washington, DC on April 25, 1993, will be coordinated by a regionally elected National Steering Committee. A process for electing Northern Californian representatives will be discussed at the December 8 meeting, scheduled to take place from 2-4pm at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood Street, San Francisco.

For further information on the March, contact Leslie Ewing at (510)655-4486.

PATLAR Columnist Wins Appeal!

Mel Dahl won hsi appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals recently in his ongoing fight against the U.S. Navy's anti-gay discharge policy. He thanks those readers who've been so supportive this past year.

Leather Events

San Francisco's Celestial Krewe de Cuir has announced a calendar of events for 1992. Starting the year is the twelfth night party and announcement of 1992 Celestial Leather Court. Sunday, January 5, 1992 (Permanent Date: the Last Day of Christmas), chevaliers introduced by the King of Leather, Chris Minor, and His Consort, the Crown Prince of Leather, Warren Cave.

The Bal Masque IV will be held Saturday, February 22, 1992 (Permanent Date: Two Saturdays before Mardi Gras). Costume Tableau: "Daydreams and Nightmares: Visions of Heaven and Hell." Unmasking of Le Roi de Cuir IV, the King of Leather, and Le Dauphin IV, the Crown Prince of Leather.

Finally, Wally's Annual Mother's Day Benefit and Beer Bust takes place on Sunday, My 10, 1992 (Permanent Date: Mother's Day). Seventh Wally Look-Alike Contest! Sixth Wally's Mother Contest! Fourth Wally's Boy Contest!

Call (415) ALL-HOOD for Updated Information. Correspondence to the Club Should be Addressed to: Celestial Krewe de Cuir, Wally Sherwood, Secretary, 172 Haight Street, #4, San Francisco, CA 94102-5728.

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Amanda Blake Art Collection Exhibit and Sale

"Miss Kitty's" extensive collection of wildlife art will be on display and available for public purchase December 4-21 at the Lite Rail Gallery, 918 I 12th Street (between I and J) in Sacramento, California. Gal-lery hours are Wednesday thru Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the new Amanda Blake Wildlife Sanctuary which is operated by the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in Galt, California. Admission is free. For additional information please contact the Lite Rail Gallery at (916) 441-1013 or the PAWS office at (916) 393-3340.

Amanda Blake died of AIDS in 1989, a disease she contracted from her fifth husband. She left her estate to PAWS. It was her wish that it benefit animals PAWS shelters old, abused and surplus animals on its 20-acre sanctuary in Galt, California—animals that might otherwise end up as the victims of shooting ranches or traveling road shows, etc. PAWS attempts to place animals in trusted facilities whenever possible.

Election 1991 Produces Major Victories for Lesbian and Gay Community

November's elections produced major advances for lesbian and gay Americans, according to the Human Rights Campaign Fund. The Campaign Fund was an early and strong supporter of Pennsylvania Senator Harris Wofford, whose come from behind victory against former U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh attracted nationwide attention.

Human Rights CAMPAIGN FUND

In other electoral victories of importance to the lesbian and gay community, a San Francisco ballot measure to overturn the city's domestic partnership statute was turned down, and St. Paul's lesbian and gay rights ordinance survived a repeal effort.

In addition, two openly gay and lesbian candidates were elected to major offices. New York gay activist, Tom Duane was elected to the New York City Council, while across the country Sherri Harris became the first openly lesbian elected African American official with her election to the Seattle City Council. Fifty-five openly lesbian and gay Americans currently hold elected office in the United States, the highest number in history.

NOW Urges Cracker Barrel Old Country Store To Repeal Its Discriminatory Hiring Policies

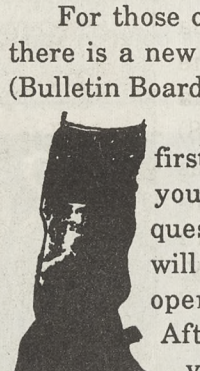
The National Organization for Women has joined other civil rights groups in demanding fair hiring and employment practices at the Cracker Barrel Country Store, Inc. NOW activists have taken part in ongoing direct action campaigns against Cracker Barrel in Atlanta and elsewhere.

NOW NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

In January 1991, citing reasons such as "traditional American values," Cracker Barrel institutionalized blatantly bigoted employment policies against lesbians and gays or those who management believed would appear to customers to be lesbian or gay. Since that time, Cracker Barrel has dismissed over fifteen employees solely on the basis of sexual orientation or perceived orientation. Cracker Barrel gave no consideration to the length of the workers' employment or to the quality of their job performance.

New BBS Service – Leather First

For those of you with a computer and modem, there is a new game in town: "Leather First" BBS (Bulletin Board Service).



When you call this free BBS for the first time using your computer modem, you are required to fill out a detailed questionnaire and within 96 hours you will be validated by the SysOps (system operators) as being 18 years or older. After validation you are able to converse freely on the board and enter any of the "rooms" in the system.

Computer BBS's are not new to the Gay community, but this is the first one based in the Sacramento area for those into the leather scene.

Leather First also plans to have monthly parties with an interesting group of men and women into various specialties.

It should not be difficult to find exactly what you're looking for on this BBS. The modem number for the Leather First is (916) 974-1262 or (916) 362-4663.

Federation of Gay Games Holds Annual Meeting in "Big Apple"

The Federation of Gay Games, official international governing body for the quadrennial Gay

Games, held its annual board meeting on October 6, 1991 in New York City.

A strong cooperative spirit prevailed throughout the planning conference leading up to the Federation meeting. The New York hosts, Federation, local, national and international delegates all appeared to come away with a sense of accomplishment and confidence in a successful 1994 Gay Games event which promises to be the largest multi-national, multi-sports and cultural event in the world once again.

Elections to the Executive Committee were held. The Officers for 1991/92 are; Co-Presidents Susan Kennedy of San Francisco and Richard Peterson of Seattle. Vice President is Shawn Kelly of San Francisco and Corresponding and Recording Secretaries are Michael Clark and Rosemary Mitchell, also of San Francisco.

The next Federation board meeting is scheduled to be held in San Francisco over the 1992 Labor Day Weekend. Information regarding the Federation of Gay Games may be obtained by writing to 584 Castro Street #343 San Francisco, California 94114 or by calling or writing the publicity department at 2222 Aloha Drive #801 Honolulu, Hawaii. (808) 926-6157. Information on Gay Games IV may be obtained by writing or calling; New York in '94 Times Square Station P.O. Box 202 New York, N.Y. 10036 (212) 925-0999.

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Separatism Forum Raises Awareness

Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change (SLCC) held an interesting opening forum on separatism at the Town House in Sacramento on November 18th. Panel speakers Theresa Corrigan (Lioness Books), Lou Camera (River City Democratic Club), Laurie McBride (LIFE Lobby), and Lee Nichols (Professor, Cal State Sacramento) offered theory, practice, and personal perceptions for the ensuing audience discussion. Commentary ranged widely, and many issues were only briefly touched upon, such as the politics of women's health care and the situational

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context of separatism. The response to this forum clearly shows that there is potential for further dialogue, and SLCC intends to offer similar opportunities in the future. SLCC can be reached at (916) 448-3130 for more information.

Exciting Winter Schedule for Sacramento Business Alliance of Networking Gays (BANG)

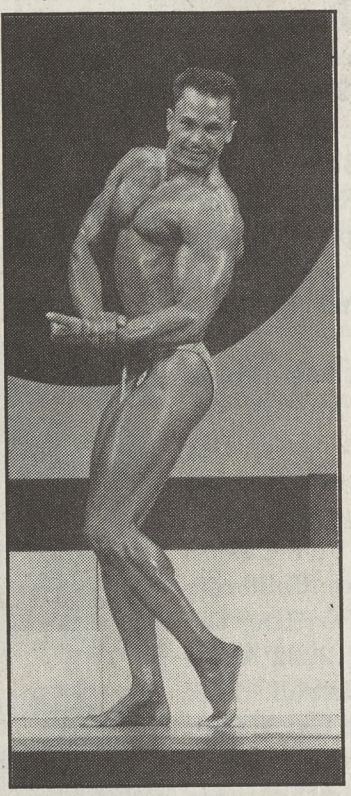
A social and "picturesque" event has been planned for the December holiday reception at the Lite Rail Gallery. Host Michael Xepoleas is planning a no-host expresso, wine and dessert extravaganza beginning at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11th.

With the new year comes the inevitable, and BANG members Roxanne Hardenburgh and Gerri Leichtfuss from Capital Bookkeeping and Tax Service will be giving those in attendance tax tips for individuals and small businesses highlighting the new tax laws. Joseph's Town and Country will be the setting for this anything-but-taxing meeting starting at 7 p.m. Thursday, January 9th. Elections for the 1992 officers also will be held at this meeting.

BANG (Business Alliance of Networking Gays) is Sacramento's lesbian and gay business association. It is an openly gay group whose primary purpose is to promote business, share information and create a strong presence and influence in Sacramento's business community. Membership is open to anyone who ethically and responsibly owns and/or represents a business, as well as to those in the community who just want to get involved in the lesbian and gay business community. Evening meetings make dinner available to those on a tight time schedule. For more information, call 863-2518, extension BANG (2264).

Arcadia Body Builders Move Forward

The Arcadia Bodybuilding Society, founded in 1986 by George Birimisa, produced Physique '91, the International Lesbian and Gay Body Building Championships in San Francisco. Rodney Felix, a 31 year old bodybuilder and fitness trainer is the new president. Rodney was Mr. January in the S.F. Eagle's 1991 calendar as well as winning a gold medal in the lightweight division of Physique '91. He has worked for the Aids Emergency Fund and the Stop AIDS Project. He is also a volunteer fitness trainer for the AES 'Buddy Program' that matches a trainer with a Person with AIDS/ARC The 'Buddy Program' is designed to build muscle and self esteem for the Lerson with AIDS/ARC.



Rodney Felix, winner of a gold medal in Physique 91.
Photo by Savage Photography

The new president is proud to announce that Physique '92 has been sanctioned by the A.A.U. (the Amateur Athletic Union). The June 20th, 1992 competition will be held under AAU regulations and the standards are extremely high.

In line with promoting natural bodybuilding, Physique '92 requires that all competitors be tested for anabolic steroids. For more information write ABS, 1230 Market Street, Suite 221, San Francisco, CA 94102 or call (415) 431-6254.

CORRECTION

The November ad for GalaxSea Cruises should have listed the owner as **Rob Hunter**, not Robin. PATLAR regrets any confusion this error may have caused.

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See The Classified Section or call to hear personals
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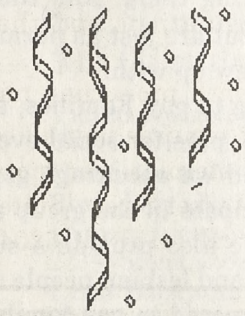

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Julie Spotts

Co-Mom Lessons

If someone would have said to me two years ago that I would be living here in Sacramento again with a partner and two children, I would have probably thought they were crazy.

I was in San Francisco living the typical S.F. single Dyke life. And while some times it was quite exciting, it was also at the same time missing something. I found out what that was when I met Elizabeth, Ursula and Aaron.

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And here I am now in Sacramento with my Partner Elizabeth and her two beautiful children. I think we knew right away, "That this group must somehow form a family." (thanks Brady Bunch) And so we did. At first it was somewhat like playing house. But soon real life stuff took over. Being Mommy Julie is very wonderful. Its very rewarding to be a part of two young lives, and to know that I can help make a difference in the kind of adults they will become.

I think the first big lesson of being Co-Mom came when I was the one at home: i.e. housewife stuff. Liz was working and so we decided that one of us should be home with the kids. That was me. Aaron at that time was just three and he was still learning about wiping after going potty. That very quickly became my job. He would call from the bathroom, "Julie come wipe myself" I would cringe...and then realize that was part of being a Mom and we would go through wiping 101. Even when Liz was home, Aaron would call out, "Julie come wipe myself."

I now wouldn't trade that phrase for anything. I really love my life with Liz, Urs and Aaron. We really are a family. Family life can be very challenging at times but the joys far out-weigh the struggles. We recently went through a bitter custody battle with Aaron's father and won. We are now planning on having a baby. Urs of course wants a girl, Aaron wants three boys and Liz just doesn't want twins. I, on the other hand, will be overjoyed to have a child, boy or girl.

I think my message here is that gay and lesbian people can have family lives with children, whether they adopt, inseminate, already have them, or dream of having them. And that our families are unique, yes, but are just as normal and valid as the Bradys we grew up with.

We belong to gay Families, a group that meets once a month, plus for social events. We have a social focus, and we encourage gay and lesbian parents to participate in the group and share their experiences. We also provide a supportive environment for gay and lesbian people considering parenthood to be exposed to gay family life. Our children have formed their own group and they have their own activities etc. If you need more info call (916) 387-8862 or write gay Families, 4587 Mack Rd. suite 267, Sacramento, CA. 95823

Cheers to gay family life!!!!!

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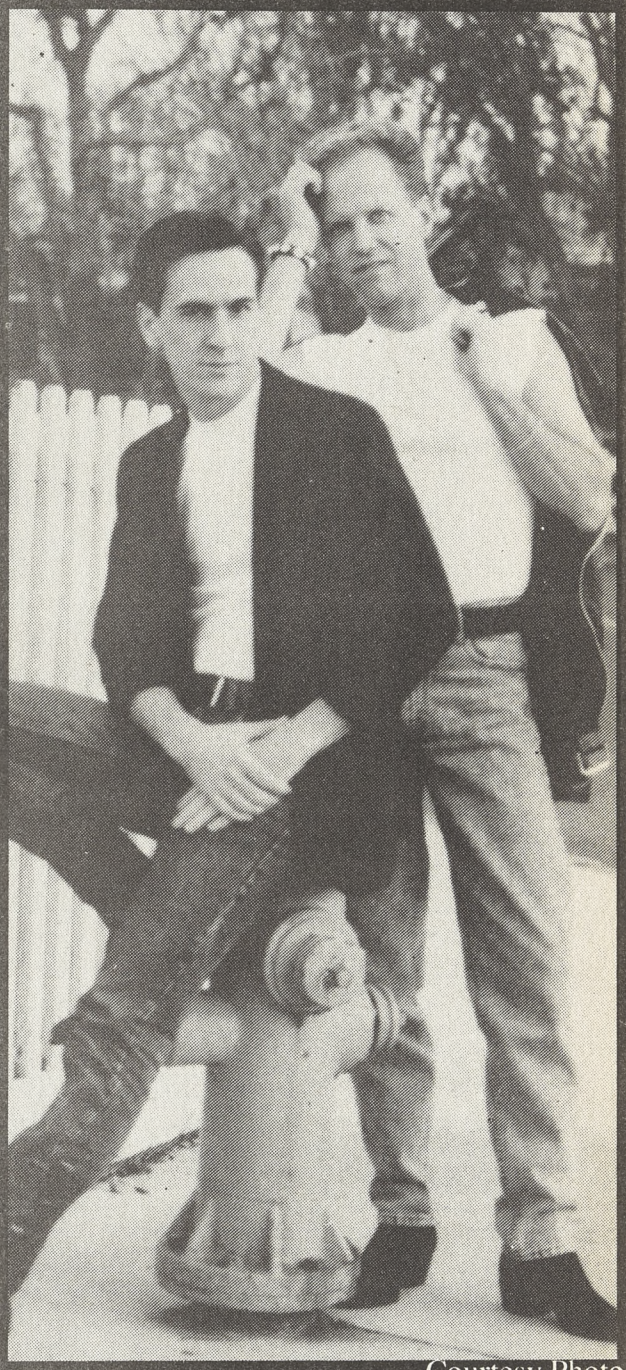

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CREST THEATRE 1013 K Street, Sacramento

Kyle

Alive & Well

Part One

Reprinted with permission from "The Gay People's Chronicle." PO Box 5426, Cleveland, OH 44101.

Last month I had the wonderful opportunity of attending Bernie Siegel's workshop Peace, Love and Healing. Mostly it was a wonderful opportunity because it was so very refreshing to hear about "The Psychology of Illness and the ART of Healing," as the topic was titled, in the down-to-earth and openly conversational way that Bernie presented it. In fact, while the information was serious, the day itself was very lighthearted and filled with laughter, though there were times of tears, as well.

The point is that while death and disease, and AIDS especially, are very serious things it is vitally important that we approach them from a perspective of life and living. As Bernie puts it: "Don't do things to not die because you'll definitely be disappointed someday. Do things to live instead." So how do we turn all this around? Subtle as it may seem this is a significant shift of perspective not only for each of us as individuals but for Western culture as a whole.

First, we look at the psychology of illness. Actually, I think that first we need to throw that term away and adopt something more honest like "Why am I sick or why do I have this problem?" The answer, according to Bernie, is that "Our personal history is stored in our bodies and someday it will present the bill." We need to look inside ourselves and search out all of the negative messages we have stored away over the years and polluted ourselves with. I am not good enough, smart enough, attractive enough. Individual messages from childhood, coven and overt abuse, whether you were beaten, incested, or simply always got the message that you were in the way or a "problem." Societal messages such as I am unacceptable because I'm gay/lesbian and more importantly, lying beneath these societal messages is the judgment that how I love is wrong and I am not lovable. All of the prejudices and isms come into play here and we quietly heap them on ourselves in the hidden form of guilt and shame, low self-esteem, unworthiness, and undesirability. In our struggles to survive in this judgmental jungle we stuff all of this way down and deep inside and we pretend. We hide and hurt.

Hiding is painful. The stuff inside doesn't go away. How can it? We hide it so safely and securely sometimes even we can't find it, but it's there. It eats at us, constantly gnawing away and reminding us of all of those messages we received, and ultimately destroying us as unhappiness, as anger and resentment, as stress, and ultimately as disease.

Now for the art of healing, also known as, self-empowerment, holistic healing, and personal growth, which I like to call learning how to really live. Thankfully learning how to really live is a little less nebulous than understanding why am I sick? Why do I have this problem? Learning how to really live happens in the here and now. today is what is most important and I can do that right now.

The first thing that Bernie recommends is to write out an "Application for Permission to Live." Yes, you sit down and you write yourself a letter telling why you want to live, what benefits you see in living and how you would propose to go about living to best receive these benefits. Don't worry about who you're writing to or what committee and where will be evaluating it. Just write it.

Then take a good look at it and notice the difference between what you wrote, especially how you would do it, and how you actually are living. Now, based on this, assume that your application has been accepted and hold yourself to it. Start living that way for those reasons. Every day.

In January, we will examine more situation specific tools from Bernie Siegel's workshop.

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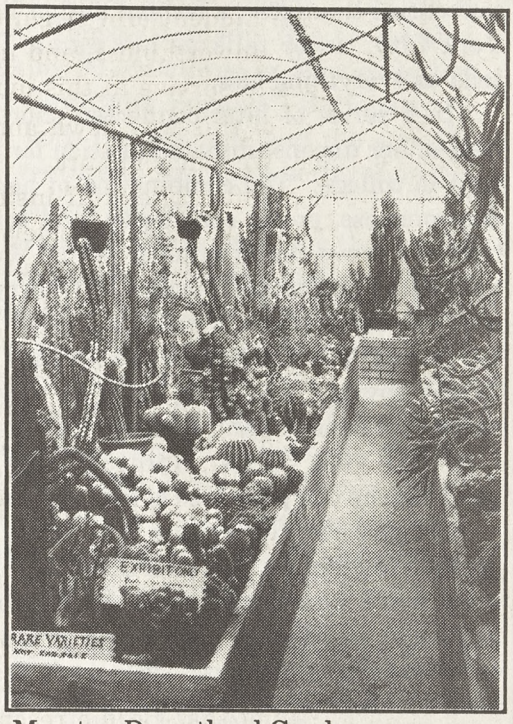
Ira Gruber & Tina Jenneray

Sophisticated Gay & Lesbian Traveler

The good news about Palm Springs is that it is very easy to get to. What is not so appealing is that during the day it can be like one gigantic sauna. You can count on about 350 days of sunshine per year, making this desert playground one of the world's best tanning facilities. From June through Labor Day temperatures can rise up a-bove the 100 mark and hold for weeks on end. The time to visit Palm Springs is from fall to early Spring. We were there in April, and it was hot, hot, hot!



Moorten Desertland Gardens
Photo by Tina Jenneray

Once the sun goes down a short 15-minute drive from downtown will take you to Cathedral City where the gay night scene is a hangout for both the young and the older crowd as well. In fact, a gay connection of ours whom we will call Adolf, a bespeckled and permanently tanned gentleman of means in his early 60's who has been living in Palm Springs for some time confided to us that the area has become quite a mecca for older gay men who are well off enough to catch themselves a hardbody wannabe. From what we saw there certainly is quite a stable to choose from...if you are there at the right time of the year, that is.

There are over 25 gay resorts to pick from in and around Palm Springs, most of which are located

Laura Post

Muse News

Whether you celebrate Chanukah, the Winter Solstice, Christmas, some other festivity, or no holiday at all, you are probably feeling some pressure to consume and to buy gifts. Moreover, the women's festivals are over until 1992. What to do?

The cheeriest seasonal album is the new release from Venus Envy. Entitled I'LL BE A HOMO FOR CHRISTMAS, the disc features examples of the musically effective, clever, and politically pointed reworkings of recognizable tunes that you first heard on UNARMED AND DANGEROUS; here, you'll find "Oh Little Town of Michigan" "Rhonda the Lesbo Reindeer," "Silent Dyke," and my favorite, "The 12 Gays of Christmas," in which the four gals sing the praises of 12 twelve-step programs...8 menstrual sponges...7 vibrators...4 turkey basters...and a year of therapy! You get the idea. To order, send a $12 to: Venus Envy, P.O. Box 19501, Seattle WA 98109.

Jazz guitar virtuoso Mimi Fox's release AGAINST THE GRAIN — containing a delightful instrumental-Rhiannon vocal duet — was widely acclaimed and well-received. Not only was Mimi profiled in the November 1991 Guitar Player Magazine (she agrees her being only the 4th woman in that position is sickening), but she is in the process of label-negotiating for her next disc. Also working on a new release is Libby Roderick. Libby's debut, IF YOU SEE A DREAM, gave us her ecofeminist philosophy, distilled from the wilderness vision of her Alaskan upbringing. Libby's new album, THINKING LIKE A MOUNTAIN, includes 11 original songs and is to be released on her own label, Turtle Island Records. Available through Ladyslipper and your local women's bookstore.

How about something non-musical to keep the spirit alive? Developed from full-color reproductions of original works of art, C. Etana Finkler's festival cards include such scenes as "Jewish Wimmin's Tent," "Serenade," and "Shakeres,' Affordable, too: $2 per card. For a brochure, write to her at : 3310 Niles Street, Silver Spring MD, 20906, or call (301) 942-6430.

Finally, just in time for 1992, you can purchase

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Continued

a new Everywoman's Almanac. Featuring highlights of the survival under 500 years of oppression of [predominantly female] Canadian and U.S. indigenous people, this item has been a mainstay of thoughtful lesbians' homes. New this year, the 1992 Everywoman's Calendar. To order, send $11.95 (sturdy spiral-bound Almanac" or 10.95 (Calendar or regular sewn-bound Almanac) to Women's Press, 517 College Street #233, Toronto Ontario, CANADA M6G 4A2. Please include $1.50 postage for the first piece and $0.75 for each additional piece.

And now on the other side of a new recording, Erica Wheeler is now retreating into the studio. Since Erica's bluesy-jazzy debut, STRONG HEART sold over 1200 copies, this new project is sure to be a worthwhile investment. Named SHADES OF THE TRUTH, the forthcoming record will include the much-requested "Back Burner Blues." To pre-order, please send $10 (CS) or $15 (CD) to: Erica Wheeler, 121 Pine Street, Florence MA, 01060, or call her at (413) 586-0033. N.B. Erica is also seeking loans and donations to her record.

Hawaii for the holidays? Rhiannon is bringing her powerful voice and teaching talents to a lush spot on the Big Island for a unique musical retreat from December 26, 1991 to January 2, 1992. The price of $1650 includes round trip air fare from San Francisco, resort lodging, 3 meals per day, and the workshop. Too pricey, you say? Then hear Rhiannon's well-loved voice (she recorded 3 albums with ALIVE!) on her new tape, TOWARD HOME, For more information, write to: Rhiannon, P.O. Box 595, Inverness CA 94937 or call (415) 669-1528. As always, please send your news to: Lady Phoenix Productions/P.O. Box 207/Alameda CA 94501.

Lisa J. Slayton

Eve

I want to fill you up,
burst you like a lighthouse
full of fine stabbing brightness!
I want to be a hammock,
swingin you with sweet honey
ropes glistening in the steamy sunshine!
I want to be a cool drop of water,
hissing wet on a heated rock
moistening your parched lips!
I want to teach you Womyn
what strange wild fruit grows
beyond.

Drew Herzig

Book Shelf

Don Juan in the Village
Jane De Lynn
240 pages
$19.95

Pantheon Books
201 East 50th Street
New York, NY 10022

It's difficult to summarize *Don Juan in the Village*, a new novel by Jane De Lynn. The narrator/central character, a lesbian author living in New York City, never tells us her name. Instead, she tells us everything else.

In a series of inter-connected short stories, we hear of her unconsummated passion for a fellow student in college. "The combination of her Alabamian decorousness, poetic sensitivity, and southern sluttishness drove me absolutely wild." We follow her neurotic, humiliating pursuit of Cherry, "my blue-eyed, freckled piece of southern trash." We share her descent into the dark waters of the Caribbean in "Night Diving," and even murkier waters of dominance, submission, and bondage in "The Duchess of L.A." We visit Spain, Morocco, Italy, and other points of the compass-rose of lust and loneliness.

Throughout, the writing is cerebral, cynical, anguished and honest. It's as if Joan Didion's bleak vision were combined with Rita Mae Brown's forthright physicality. The blend produces insights of razor-edge sharpness—you don't realize you've been cut until you see the blood start to leak out. It is alternately hilarious and chilling. After such knowledge, what forgiveness?

The descriptions, whether of local color, sexual acts, or desperate states of mind, are graphic, verging on clinical. On the last page, the narrator testifies to "the immense vanity of my self-love and self-hate." And unerringly puts her finger on the essence of Don Juan-ism—"When I was in a room by myself there was no one in it. On occasion, when I fell in love, someone was with me in the room and it was no longer empty, but quickly they became part of the furniture."

The sum total of these and other astringent insights is overwhelming. This is a book to make you feel, to make you think, and hopefully, to change your life.

within a mile of the downtown area. We chose the Desert Paradise Hotel , located at 615 Warm Springs Drive, and we found it to be one of the finest gay facilities we have yet to visit in the country. Not only is it well kept and situated on beautifully landscaped grounds with a majestic view of the surrounding San Jacinto mountains, but the casual elegance and pristine charm of the poolside suites assure each guest of complete comfort and relaxation. And, after visiting so many gay owned hotels where the beds left much to be desired, we were delighted with the quality of the beds at the Desert Paradise, where you are guaranteed a good night's rest. Morning brings a poolside Continental breakfast as well, which is a great way to make contact with the other guests, especially if you are traveling alone.

Another great treat at the Desert Paradise is the owner/host, Tommy Ludwig. We found this sharp, good-looking 30-something ex-Minnesota boy to be our "Mr. Gay Palm Springs"! Seriously, he knows his city, both the gay side and the straight side,(we would venture to say) even better than the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

And womyn readers please take note that while, as mentioned previously, there are at least 25 gay resorts in the Palm Springs area, the bent is really towards gay men. Womyn have actually been turned away from some of these elitist establishments. Well, this is not the case at the Desert Paradise! Tommy was proud to announce that he was full to capacity with charming female guests during the recent Nabisco Dinah Shore golf championship last spring. But, aside from this one particular event, Palm Springs really doesn't attract that many lesbians.

Tommy Ludwig's Desert Paradise Hotel is located just 15 minutes from downtown Palm Springs. For reservations call (800) 342-7635. Tommy was so accommodating to us during our visit that he even drove us over to Cathedral City one evening for a taste of the nightlife. He's quite a guy, and we highly recommend a stay at his fine establishment. You won't be disappointed.

Now, you may decide to just lounge around poolside, but we like to take off on foot and investigate our surroundings, so we walked downtown via Palm Canyon Drive to see what sets this desert community apart from other vacation getaways. The beauty of the surrounding mountains is certainly worth a mention, and the city itself has a few interesting attractions. Directly behind the Desert Fashion Plaza you will find the Palm Springs Desert Museum. Nestled at the foot of the San Jacinto Mountains, this museum is the cultural heart of the Coachella Valley. Privately funded and fully accredited, the 75,000 sq. ft. museum features Western American and contemporary art exhibits as well as the highly acclaimed William Holden collection of Native American artifacts. The museum is free to the public the first Tuesday of each month; otherwise admission is $4.00. Another downtown attraction is the Village Green Heritage Center, where you can visit Ruddy's general Store, an authentic and lovely recreation from the '30's, which features over 6,000 unused items and products from the good old days. Admission is 50¢; hours are Thurs. - Sun, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

One morning we hopped on some bicycles and rode over to South Canyon Drive and a rather unusual botanical garden. Moorten's Desertland Gardens offers over 3,000 varieties of cacti and

Continued Next Page

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desert palm, but the real treat for us was meeting Patricia Moorten, the "Cactus Lady", an extremely gracious and delightful lady who entertained us with terrific stories of how she and her late husband, "Slim" Moorten traveled the world gathering cacti and desert flora as well as promoting Palm Springs as a resort area in the 1930's before anyone even knew about the beauty of the area. Today, she and her son run their lovely botanical wonderland, cultivating and selling cacti and desert succulents to curious visitors.

If you do visit Palm Springs in the late spring or early fall and want to experience a real breath of fresh air, we suggest a trip to the internationally famous Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, the world's longest single span lift. It whisks passengers up from the dry heat of the valley floor 8,500 feet right into the cool beauty of the San Jacinto Wilderness State Park in about 15 minutes. The views are sensational, and the temperature can be as much as 40 degrees cooler than the desert floor. We suggest you take your time when you visit the tram. In fact, we recommend taking the dining tour; for a few extra dollars you can also enjoy a delicious dinner. For more information call The Aerial Tramway at (619) 325-4227. Admission is $13.95; $17.95 for the dinner tram.

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David Cassidy & Leif Garrett in
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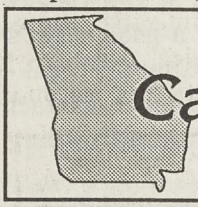
"MADAM BOUVARY
☆ Dec 6, Liza Minnelli
in a musical for the Holidays
"STEPPIN' OUT"

Call 443-1982 for other titles and to confirm opening dates.

For the movie buff the best time to experience Palm Springs is early January when you will encounter not only near-perfect weather, but the Palm Springs International Film Festival as well. We suggest that you start making your reservations now. For more information on Palm Springs and the desert communities, which include Cathedral City, Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage and many others we recommend you contact the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention & Visitors Bureau at 255 North El Cielo Road, Suite 315, Palm Springs, Ca. 92262; telephone (619) 327-8411.



Cat Comiskey

Just Say No to Dating

Just saying "no" to someone who has just asked us out on a date isn't that easy. Even if we have no romantic interest in the individual we feel some obligation to be at least cordial to them. Unfortunately, if we're polite and gentle about declining the invitation, the pursuer persists. As a last resort we are forced to get nasty before the person finally hears "NO!". Safeguard yourself with a repertoire of satirical excuses. Use any of the following responses and I personally guarantee that the pursuer will never ask you out again. Or better yet, they may never even speak to you again.

"No Thanks. . ."

- I've already had genital herpes once and I don't want to take any more chances.
- I'm defecting to the Soviet Union first thing in the morning .
- I only date members of my own species.
- I'd rather stay home and masturbate than go out with you.
- Ask me another time, preferably after you've had some cosmetic surgery.
- I honestly doubt that I could choke down dinner eating across from someone like you.
- If I brought someone home with a face like yours, my dog would become very sexually aroused.
- I'll be at a convention for the next four years or so.
- I'm busy this weekend writing someone else love letters.
- I wouldn't want you to have to go through all of the trouble of getting a weekend pass from your psychiatric hospital.

© Cat Comiskey

Ernie Brown

Views From River City

There is a lot happening this month so I will get right down to it. Coming December 12th Romanovsky & Phillips, live at the Crest Theater at 8 p.m. Tickets are $12.50 in advance, $15 at the door. If you missed them the last time they were here, don't make the same mistake twice!

The Fairy Godfather Fund presents their second annual UCD Med Center Christmas Show on Saturday, December 21st at 2 p.m in the Med Center's auditorium. Everyone is invited. If you should miss this show you will be able to catch it later on that night at the Western—December 21st at 8 p.m.

The Western is having their Christmas buffet December 25th starting at 3 p.m. On December 15th, another show at the Western will be "Just For You Sacramento" hosted by Fellicia. It starts at 3 p.m. Films for Days is having their Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 8th. They will be presenting a champagne buffet from Noon to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited. On December 13th PAARC presents "A Christmas Revue" at the Senior Citizens

Continued Next Page

$POTLIGHT

This is a story that comes from the heart. It all started with Daniel Turner, a coffee connoisseur who discovered that in Seattle, Washington one can simply walk up to almost any coffee cart on the street and enjoy a good latte'. He also discovered that each cart makes the drink a little differently, in terms of both recipe and quality.

In early 1990, Daniel met up with Brent Lovett, a national real estate developer, and they began to compare notes on coffee across the nation. With much teamwork and an undying commitment to quality, the perfect cup of espresso was blended which will soon be served with style from Boston to San Francisco.

After the quality cup of espresso was developed, Brent and Daniel teamed up with Brian Shineman, a distribution manager with the Boeing Aircraft Company, and D & B Fine Coffees, Inc. was born.

In early 1991, D & B began producing and placing espresso carts on the streets of Seattle, and is now in the process of producing carts for nationwide distribution.

D & B Fine Coffee carts will meet all building and health codes. All D & B employees dress with style and serve you a cup of coffee with a smile and most of all quality, or your money back.

Seattle presently has over 190 coffee carts within its city limits, grossing from $45,000 to $500,000 per year. They plan to install carts throughout the nation so everyone may enjoy that same kind of quality that Seattle has enjoyed for years.

D & B continues to grow, so if you would like more information about a D & B distributorship please call (206) 322-4718.

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BROWN Continued

Center (27th & J Streets). Reception at 7 p.m. and show at 8 p.m. A donation of $5 is requested.

Coming to Joseph's Town & Country is Bobbi Callicoatte for two days only on December 7th and 8th. Call 649-9248 for time and more information. On December 21st Lady Garnet has her Christmas show at Joseph's Town & Country. Speaking of Joseph's, they are hosting their special Christmas dinner on December 25th.

Ernie Brown and Bobbette's 10th Annual Christmas Party is Sunday, December 22nd. It starts at 4 p.m.. There will be fun, food, and entertainment. All proceeds go to the MCC's Christmas Basket for the Needy project. Oh, before I forget, Bobbette of the Mercantile raised over $200 for the Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation. Good show Bobbette!

Shakers (27th and Broadway) is still serving good food. They have now added catering services. Shakers will be open Christmas Day and Christmas Eve for special dinners. They are also having a New Year's Day special brunch.

The Buffalo Club's Second Annual Old Fashioned Christmas Party is scheduled for December 14th, 7:30 p.m. There will be a holiday drink special and buffet. The Buffalo is also having a safe and fun New Year's Eve celebration with stars Arbess Williams and The Boll Weevils on December 31st. Semi-formal attire and there is a $5 cover charge.

If you missed the Linda Snooks show at the Town House You are in luck because she will be doing it again there on December 7th starting at 10 p.m. Don't miss her this time. She is great and very professional!

Please support Larry and LaKish's toy drive. To find out about all events taking place at Faces stop by and check out their calendar. They have a lot going on. Our place is doing great; they have a fantastic sound system! Check it out.

I told you this is going to be a busy month, so get with it and join in on the fun. I would like to extend to all of my readers a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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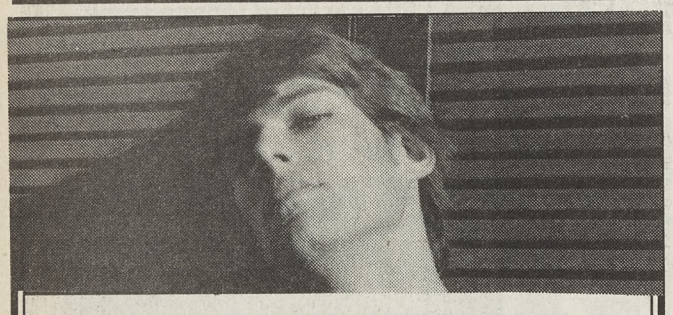

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Poetry

Dream II

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The warmth of a whisper excites me.
Wet with seduction are the lips that tempt.
Drinking deep loves nectar.
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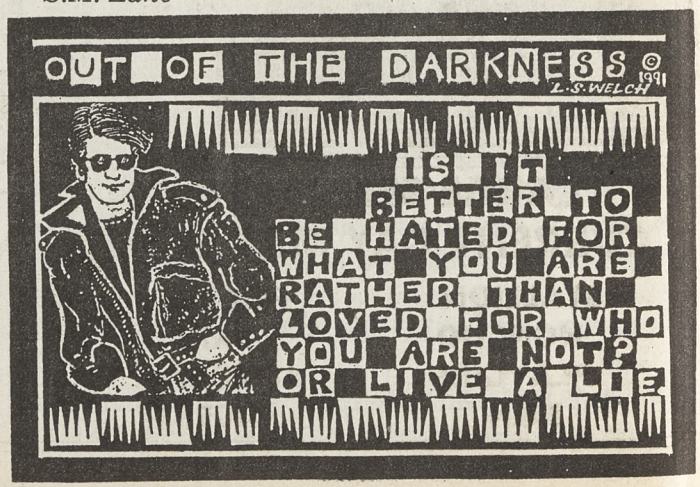
—S.M. Lane



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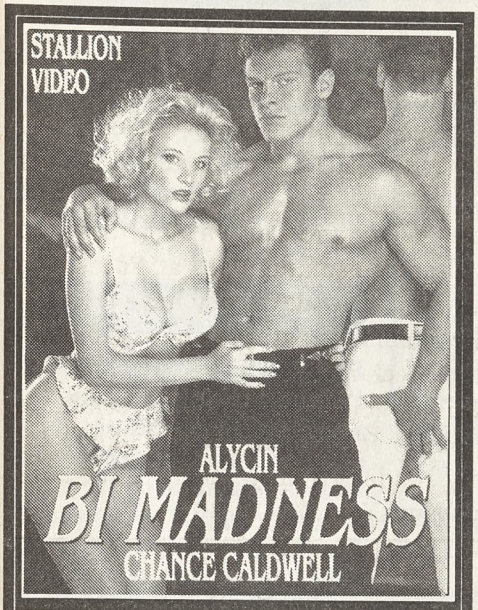

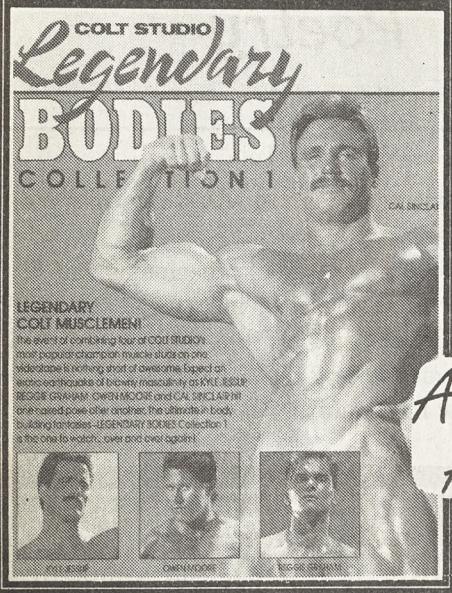

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CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY SERVICES of Tulare County announces to the gay and lesbian community a newly installed AIDS Hotline. 1-800-640-AIDS. The hotline provides referrals to medical, legal, hospice, mental health, and substance abuse assistance. The hotline also provides community contacts for support groups or just a friend that will listen.

GAY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP for Lesbians and Gay Men with children. We are also a supportive environment for Lesbians and Gay Men considering parenthood. Meetings will be held every 4th Sunday. For more info, call 916-387-8862. [24A]

VETERANS C.A.R.E. ANNUAL X'MAS PARTY December 14 Saturday, 5PM. Host Alex Perry. Contact Tom Blocher at 707-829-5393 for more info.

THE WOMEN'S BUILDING 13th ANNUAL ARTS & Crafts Fair will showcase 280 multi-cultural women artists and craftswomen plus entertainment, demonstrations and art exhibit. Sat./Sun. Dec. 7th & 8th, 14th & 15th at Herbst Pavilion, Pier 2, Fort Mason Center, S.F. Info. on tickets, free childcare, parking and public transportation avail. by calling 415-431-1180.

ORGANIZATION

MAN/BOY LOVE. NAMBLA seeks justice for men and boys interested in consensual relationships. Our monthly Bulletin features news, fiction, letters, pictures. Mailed discreetly. Subscribe! $25/year NAMBLA, PO Box 174, NY, NY 11018. [220]

TRAVEL

JOIN THE NATIONAL Gay Travel Society. Membership is free. The only requirement is that you must be screened so we can introduce you to 100's of gays and lesbians throughout the country. You must be a host for free membership to stay with others. Write: Ira Gruber - The Globetrotter, 1011 Buren Ave. #131 Seattle, WA 98104.

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YOUNG MALE MID-20'S needs work, anything available. Please call 916-552-2502. "ART" [21JS]

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PUBLICATION

OUT OF THE DARKNESS: a powerful book of illustrations as seen in Patlar! Send only $4.95 to: Linda Welch P.O. Box 120793 Nashville, TN 37212. A great gift idea! [110PN]

PERSONALS

FRIENDS OF BOBBETTE I've made many friends whom the years have scattered. If you're out there, take a moment now to write me. Let's recapture the warmth of our friendship and share our joys again. Write Bobbette, The Mercantile Saloon, 1928 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. [17PL].

YOUNG AT HEART, early 50's, Caucasian looking for same for friendship and ? Sacramento area. Call Voice Mail Box #1002, 900-835-0769. ☎

GWM, 44 GOOD LOOKING, 6' HZL, brown moustache, firm build, hairy chest. Seeks same hairy chest a must, 25-45. Call Voice Mail Box #1001, 900-835-0769. ☎

The publisher and editor of PATLAR reserve the right to edit or reject materials submitted for posible publication which they consider to be in poor taste or which might result in legal action.

HUNKY, VERSATILE, BEEFCAKE, 30, 5'9", 150, BR/GR, mustache, HIV-, dark speedo tanline, 32"W, 42" hairy chest, round tight butt. Seeks younger top. Thin, smooth, hung, horny, or blonde preferred. Relationship or just sex OK. Photos answered. 1517 So. Virginia #230 Reno 89509. [111PL]

PHOTOS TAKEN for private collection. Show it off. 916-966-2659 [112PL]

6 FOOT 2, EYES OF BLUE I have written, you write, too. Write Patlar PL-155, c/o Patlar, PO Box 22402, Sacramento.,CA 95822.[26PL]

HISPANIC MALE 28 Y.O. Brown hair, brown eyes. 5'7", 155 lbs. Looking for gay friends, white or hispanic 18-30 only. Call Joe 916-447-4520 after 9PM. [112PL]

REGULAR GUY, 6'4",175 nice looking, seeking others similar for discrete encounters. No smoking or drink. Call Voice Mail Box #1000, 900-835-0769 ☎

CHOW DOWN! CLEAN, massage or oral recipient barely-bi cute guy. Photo please. PO Box 245583, Sacramento, CA 95824. [111ME]

NATIONWIDE - GWM, 54, 5'11", 200, good-looking, hairy chest. Seek monogamous lover for country living, outdoor fun, camping, hunting, fishing, gardening, must know his way around the kitchen, be hung and safe. All answered, photo gets mine. Hubert, PO Box 382, Yolo, CA 95697. [210PL]

RON KERLEY, I'D LOVE to hear from you! Please write Fred Kelley PO Box 451 Dayton, NV 89403 [112PL]

WINTER BREAK '91! Lay back and enjoy my oral talents. I'm horny for young (19-35), well built hung studs to service. Write PATLAR AD-16, PO Box 1413, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

UNCUT MEN WANTED. Call for good times, Write to PATLAR (AD-21), PO Box 1413 West Sacramento, CA 95691. [112PL]

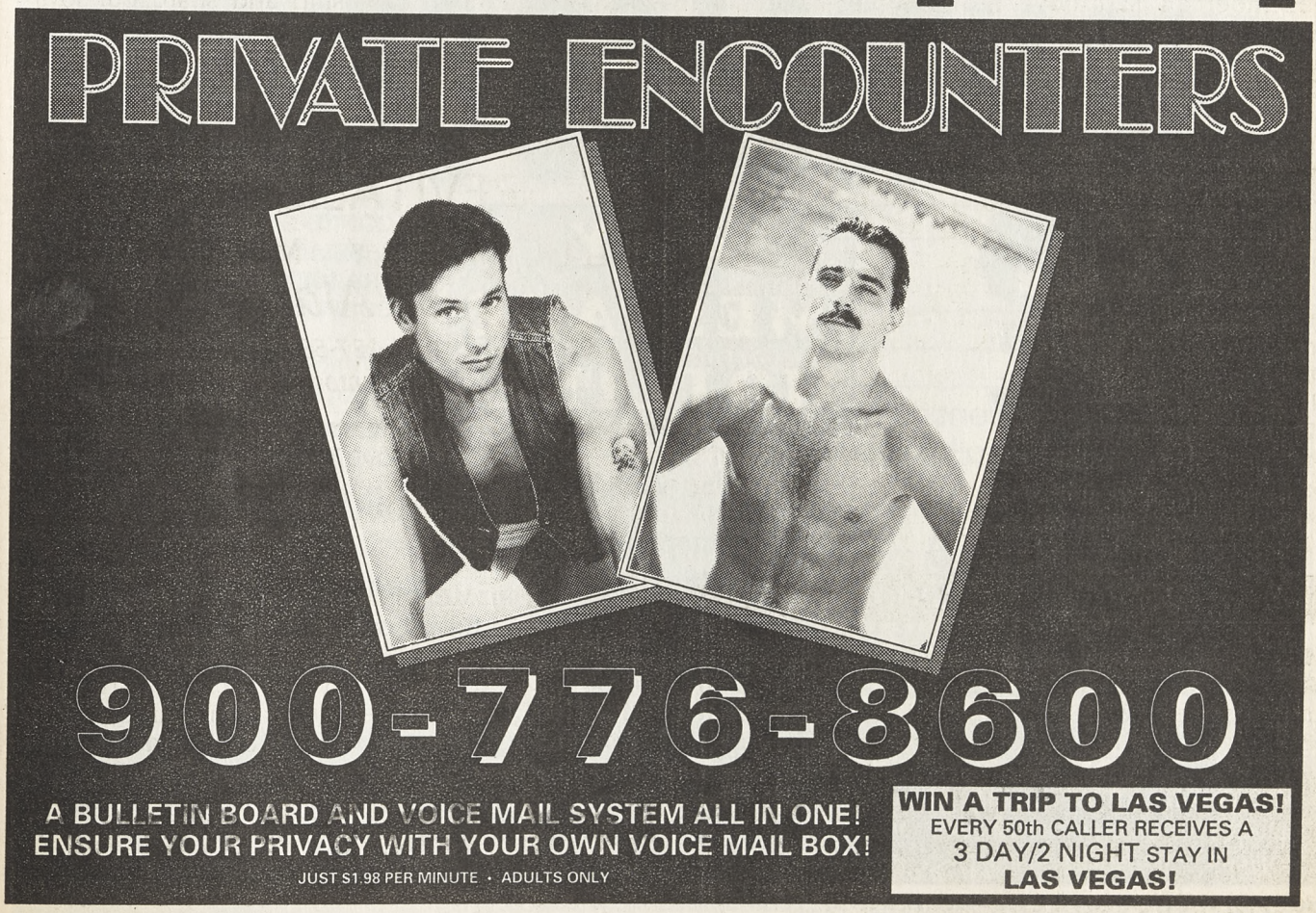
BLUE EYES GM, SLENDER 5'8", 37, n/smkr seeks romantic non-balding GM 24-40. Interests: home life, movies, travel, hiking, nature, dancing. 916-922-4781. [112PL]

STAR TREK FANS GM, 28, desires correspondence with other Gay/Lesbian Trekkers. Discuss characters, plots, effects, philosophy, and other interests. Potential "official" fan club? Voice Mail Box # 1005, 900-835-0769 ☎

YOUNG STUD WANTED GBM, 32 yrs., Blk/Brn 6'0" masc., (bot.), seeks masc. GW/GHM (top) for companionship. My offer includes free living, travel, plus other benefits. Serious HIV- only. Call Voice Mail Box #1006,. 900-835-0769. ☎

EXPERIENCE MY EXPERIENCE GWM 6'1", 190# young 50, brown thinning hair and salt & pepper mustache. Healthy HIV-. Masculine & unassuming. Thin, healthy, hairy, clean a plus. Likes Gay/Bi/Straight. Safe action. Call Voice Mail Box#1004, 900-835-0769. ☎

HANDSOME WELL-BUILT FRIENDLY ULCA grad 25, 5'6", 145, GAM enjoys comedy, movies, music, tennis, body building. Seeks fit, non-smoking WM 21-35 for friendship and ? Voice Mail Box #1007, 900-835-0769 ☎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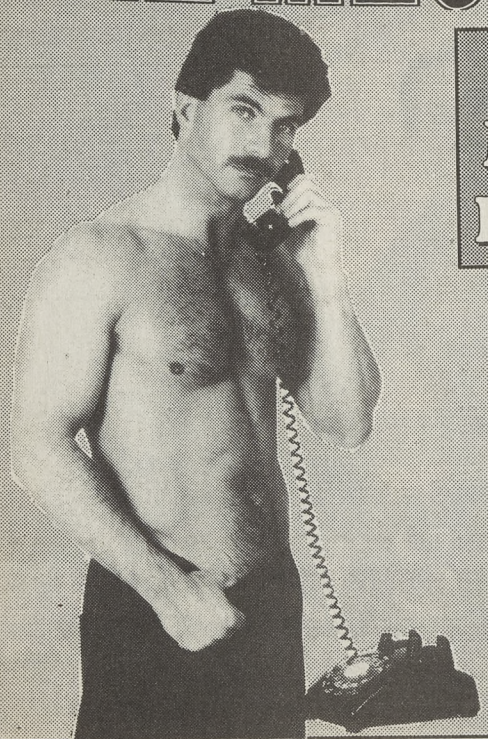

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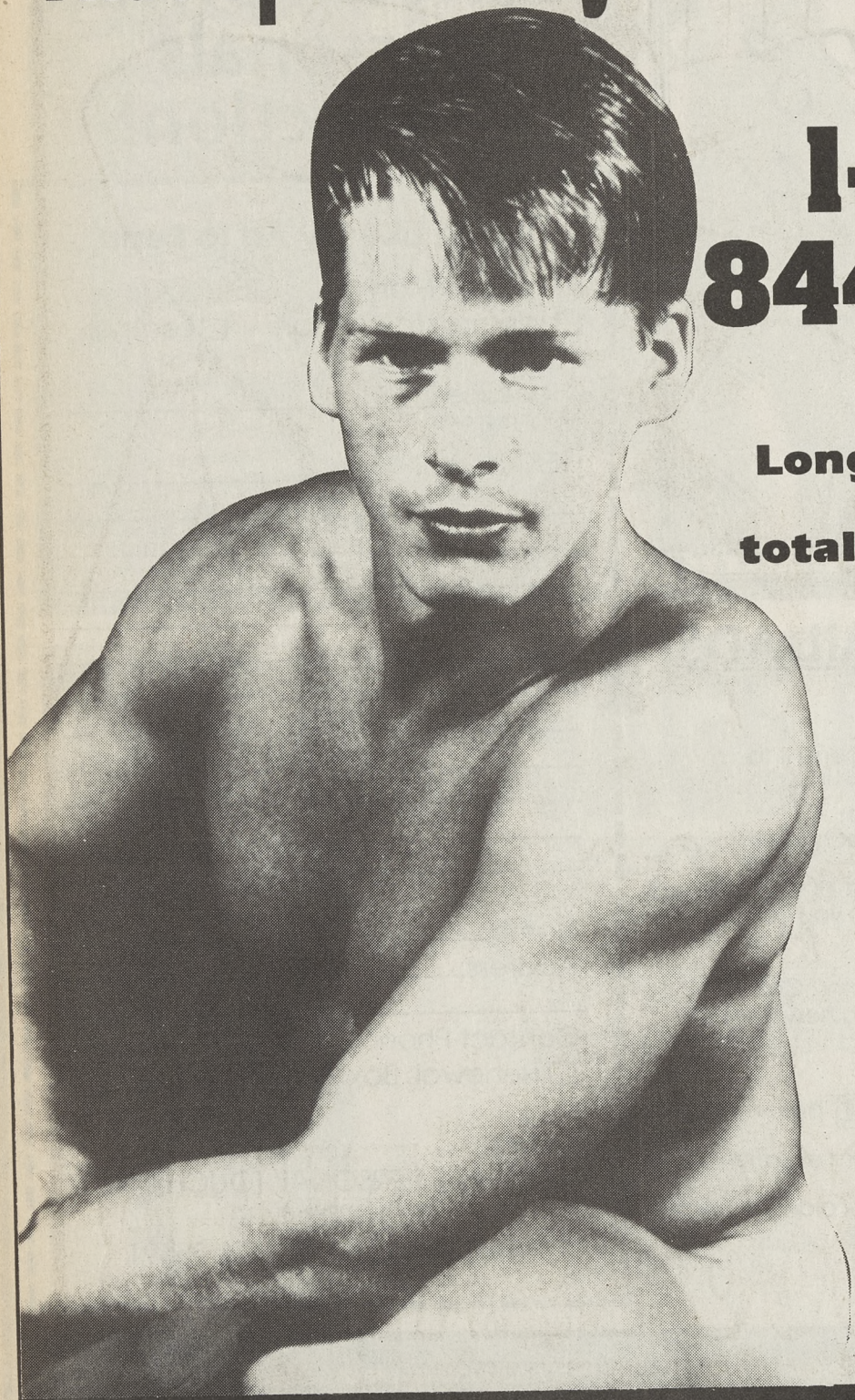

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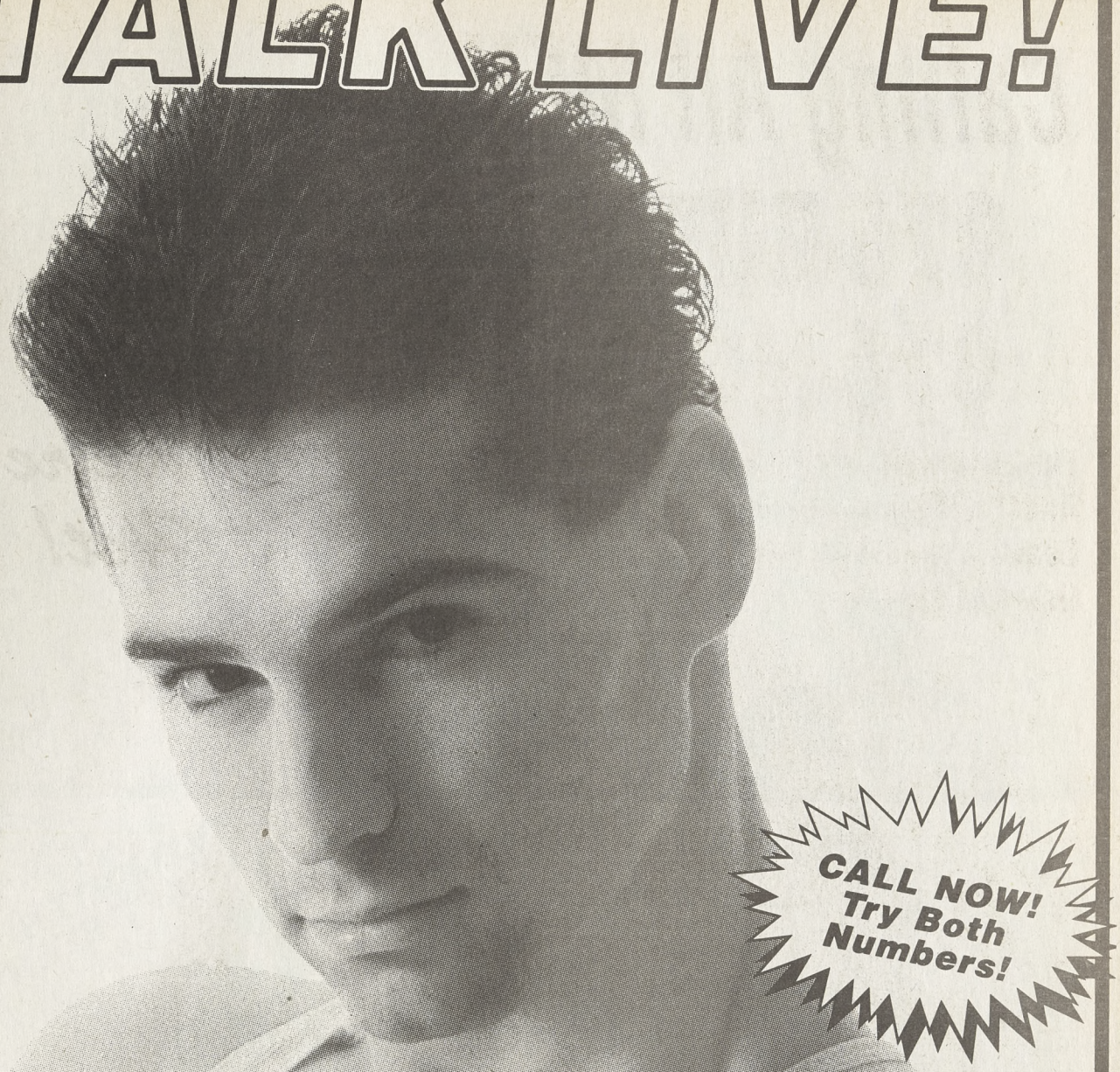

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